

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-15 PA-02 PRS-01 IO-10 OES-05

AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 (ISO) W

----- 082945

R 262340Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4607

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

USDA/FAS

UNCLAS QUITO 1396

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: EFFECT OF THE RECENT HEAVY RAINS ON AGRICULTURE

1. UNUSUALLY HEAVY SEASONAL RAINS HAVE CAUSED FLASH FLOODING IN QUITO WITH SOME LOSS OF LIFE. RAINS IN SOME PARTS OF GUAYAS, MANABI, AND EL ORO PROVINCES ARE THE HEAVIEST IN FORTY YEARS. ALTHOUGH SOME AREAS OF GUAYAQUIL HAVE BEEN RECENTLY FLOODED, THE CITY HAS NOT YET BEEN AS HARD HIT AS OTHER COASTAL AREAS.

2. THE RAINS HAVE CAUSED SOME CROP LOSSES AND GENERALLY DISRUPTED PRODUCT TRANSPORT IN COASTAL AREAS. HARD HIT AREAS SUCH AS THE MILAGRO AN YAGUACHI DISTRICTS OF GUAYAS PROVINCE HAVE ALREADY BEEN DESIGNATED AS DISASTER AREAS AND WILL RECEIVE EMERGENCY TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT. FOOD AID MAY ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE. THE TRANSPORT OF MOST FOOD COMMODITIES HAS BEEN SLOWED DOWN AND IN SOME CASES, SUCH AS THE MOVEMENT OF BANANAS TO THE PORT OF ESMERALDAS, VIRTUALLY HALTED.

3. ALTHOUGH THE PROBLEM IS NOT YET CONSIDERED CRITICAL, CONTINUED HEAVY RAINS COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR THE RICE, SUGAR AND BANANA PRODUCERS OF THE COAST IF THE MAJOR RIVERS OF THE GUAYAS RIVER BASIN OVERFLOW. SO FAR

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THE OVERFLOWS HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED TO SEVERAL SMALL

TRIBUTARY RIVERS IN THE AREA.

4. ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE ALSO AFFECTING SIERRA AGRICULTURE. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE DAMAGE IS LARGELY RESTRICTED TO FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS, BUT AN INCREASING AMOUNT OF CROP DMAGE WILL OCCUR IF CURRENT CONDITIONS CONTINUE.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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